

REMARKS

The pending office action has been carefully considered. Twelve claims are pending in this application numbered 13, 15, 16, 18-23, 26, 27 and 31.

Claims 13, 22 and 31 are the pending independent claims. Claim 13 has claims 15, 16, 18-21 and 26 dependent thereon; claim 22 has claim 23 and 27 dependent thereon, and claim 31 has no claim dependent thereon.

Claims 13, 15, 16, 18 and 31 have been amended and claims 14, 17 and 32 have been deleted.

Claims 1-12, 24, 25, 28-30 and 33-37 have been withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 17, 20 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 22, 23 and 27 are allowed.

Allowable former claim 17 was dependent on claim 14 and claim 14 was dependent on claim 13. Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 14 and 17, and claims 14 and 17 have been deleted. Claims 15, 16 and 18 were amended to depend directly on claim 13. Claim 18 was amended to include a line of attachment. Claims 19 and 20 depend on claim 18. It is believed that the Examiner's objection to claim 19 has been resolved. It is believed that newly amended claim 13 and all the claims now dependent thereon, claims 15, 16, 18-21 and 26, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 32 was dependent on claim 31. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 32 and claim 32 was deleted. Newly amended claim 31 is believed to resolve the Examiner's objection and be in condition for allowable.

In view of the action taken herein, allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Patent Department  
100 Headquarters Park Drive  
Skillman, NJ 08558  
(908) 904-2376  
Date: October 23, 2003

  
Stuart E. Krieger  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 28,731